

Election/Restrictions

The Office Action states that restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-48 [*sic*], drawn to a connector, a housing, a locking ring, a socket housing, a fluid and electric connector, classified in class 403, subclass 348.
- II. Claim 48, drawn to a method of connecting two components, classified in class 29, subclass 456.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the requirement for restriction. The Office Action states that another materially different apparatus can practice the method of connecting two components and that adhesive can be employed to connect two components. As stated in Claim 48, the method comprises a thread engagement member engaging multiple threaded portions with a varying amount of axial travel per rotation of the first component that corresponds with pitches of the multiple threaded portions. Contrary to the assertion made in the Office Action, an adhesive cannot be used to vary the amount of axial travel that corresponds with such pitches. No such materially different apparatus exists or has been identified in the Office Action that has a varying amount of axial travel per rotation that corresponds with pitches of multiple threaded portions. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the requirement for restriction be withdrawn. Nevertheless, Applicant hereby elects to prosecute Claims 1-47, with traverse.

The Office Action further states that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

- I. Figure 5 (connector with ring)
- II. Figure 10a (connector without a ring, and threads on a second component); and
- III. Figure 10b (connector without a ring, and with threaded portion on a first component).

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the requirement for election. Each of the connectors shown in Figures 5, Figure 10a, and 10b comprise different threaded portions that are engaged by an engagement member. As a result, a varying amount of axial travel per rotation of the member having the engagement member corresponds with the pitches of the different threaded portions. Although Figure 5 shows a first threaded portion and a second threaded portion, and Figures 10a and 10b show multiple threaded portions, each of the threaded portions have a different pitch which causes the varying amount of axial travel. The connectors shown in Figures 10a and 10b are simply alternate embodiments of the preferred embodiment with a locking ring. Patentably distinct inventions do not result whether the engagement member and the different threaded portions are on a locking ring, a first component, or a second component. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the requirement for election be withdrawn.

Regardless, the Applicant hereby elects Species I (connector with ring) as identified in the Office Action, with traverse. The claims that are readable on Species I include claims 1-10 and claims 25-42.

For at least the reasons set forth above and in view of the remarks submitted herewith, Applicant submits that the present application should not be subject to the restriction or the election requirements. If it would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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